

## SENATE BILL No. 260

### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** None (noncode).

**Synopsis:** Commission on childhood poverty. Creates the commission on childhood poverty in Indiana and sets forth duties of the commission. Creates the childhood poverty commission assistance account within the state general fund to fulfill the purposes of the commission.

**Effective:** Upon passage.

**Kruse**

January 7, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Commerce, Public Policy & Interstate Cooperation.

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First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 260

A BILL FOR AN ACT concerning human services.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) As used in this  
2       SECTION, "commission" refers to the commission on childhood  
3       poverty in Indiana established by subsection (b).

4       (b) The commission on childhood poverty in Indiana is  
5       established. The commission shall evaluate the costs and effects of  
6       childhood poverty and provide a plan to reduce childhood poverty  
7       by fifty percent (50%) in Indiana by the year 2020.

8       (c) The commission consists of the following members:

9           (1) The dean of the Indiana University School of Social Work,  
10          or the dean's designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the  
11          commission.

12          (2) The state superintendent of public instruction, or the  
13          superintendent's designee.

14          (3) The director of the division of family resources, or the  
15          director's designee.

16          (4) The director of the Indiana housing and community  
17          development authority, or the director's designee.

18          (5) The director of the department of workforce development,

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or the director's designee.

(6) The commissioner of the state department of health, or the commissioner's designee.

(7) The director of the office of faith-based and community initiatives.

(8) One (1) representative from the National Association of Social Workers - Indiana Chapter.

(9) One (1) representative from the Indiana Community Action Association.

(10) One (1) representative from the Children's Coalition of Indiana.

(11) One (1) representative from the Indiana Youth Services Association.

(12) One (1) representative from the Indianapolis Urban League.

(13) One (1) representative from the Center for Social and Economic Progress.

(14) One (1) representative from the Indiana Association of United Ways.

(15) One (1) representative from Indiana Legal Services.

(16) Two (2) members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate. The members appointed under this subdivision may not be members of the same political party.

(17) Two (2) members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The members appointed under this subdivision may not be members of the same political party.

The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members described in subdivisions (8), (10), (12), (14), and (17). The president pro tempore of the senate shall appoint the members described in subdivisions (9), (11), (13), (15), and (16). Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. The initial appointments shall be made not later than August 15, 2009.

(d) Each member appointed under subsection (c) must have knowledge concerning childhood poverty in Indiana.

(e) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum.

(f) The Indiana University School of Social Work shall staff the commission.

(g) The commission shall meet:

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- (1) at the call of the chairperson; and  
 (2) as often as necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
 SECTION.

However, the commission shall meet at least quarterly.

(h) The commission has the following responsibilities:

- (1) Identifying and analyzing the occurrence of poverty in Indiana.
- (2) Analyzing the long term effects of poverty on a child, the child's family, and the child's community.
- (3) Analyzing the costs of child poverty to municipalities and Indiana.
- (4) Providing information on statewide public and private programs that address the reduction of child poverty.
- (5) Examining the percentage of the target population served by programs described in subdivision (4) and the current state funding levels for the programs.
- (6) Preparing reports consisting of the commission's findings and recommendations.
- (7) Presenting an implementation plan that includes procedures and priorities for implementing strategies and biannual benchmarks to achieve the reduction of childhood poverty by fifty percent (50%) in Indiana by 2020. The plan must include provisions for improving the following for parents and children living in poverty:
  - (A) Workforce training and placement to promote career progression.
  - (B) Education opportunities, including higher education opportunities and literacy programs.
  - (C) Affordable housing.
  - (D) Child care and early education programs.
  - (E) After school programs and mentoring programs.
  - (F) Access to affordable health care, including access to mental health services and substance abuse programs.
  - (G) Streamlining of services through public and private agencies providing human services to low income children and families.

(i) In carrying out its duties, the commission shall consider pertinent studies concerning childhood poverty and take testimony from experts and advocates in the human services field.

(j) The affirmative votes of a majority of the commission's members on the commission are required for the commission to take action on any measure, including making recommendations

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for the reports required by this SECTION.

(k) The commission shall submit the reports required in subsection (h)(6) and the plan required in subsection (h)(7) to the governor and the legislative council by the following dates:

(1) Not later than August 15, 2010, the commission shall submit an interim report that contains interim findings and recommendations by the commission under subsection (h)(6).

(2) Not later than August 15, 2011, the commission shall submit the commission's final report that contains:

(A) the findings and recommendations of the commission under subsection (h)(6); and

(B) the implementation plan under subsection (h)(7).

The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

(l) The commission shall make the final report available to the public upon request not later than December 31, 2011.

(m) The childhood poverty commission assistance account is established within the state general fund for the purpose of administering the commission. Money in the account shall be distributed to the Indiana University School of Social Work for carrying out the purposes of this SECTION. The account consists of the following:

(1) Amounts transferred to the account from the state general fund.

(2) Appropriations to the account from other sources.

(3) Grants, gifts, and donations to the account.

(4) Interest accruing from money in the account.

(n) This SECTION expires December 31, 2011.

SECTION 2. An emergency is declared for this act.

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